

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Hour and
10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business*

Anticipated Floor Action:

**H.R. 2606—FY 2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act
Motion to Go to Conference on H.R. 2587 (FY 2000 District of Columbia
Appropriations Act)**

**H.R. 2031—Twenty-First Amendment Enforcement Act
H.J. Res. 58—Disapproving the Extension of Emigration Waiver Authority
to Vietnam**

H.R. 987—Workplace Preservation Act

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H.R. 2606—FY 2000 Foreign Operations Appropriations

Floor Situation: The House will complete consideration of H.R. 2606 as its first order of business today. Yesterday, the House completed debate on all amendments and postponed votes on three amendments until today. The open rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 2606 appropriates \$12.7 billion in discretionary budget authority in FY 2000 for foreign assistance and export-financing programs. This amount is \$20.7 billion less than the FY 1999 level (which included \$2 billion in FY 1999 emergency appropriations) and \$1.9 billion less than President Clinton's FY 2000 budget request. Of the total amount appropriated, the bill provides \$595.5 million for export assistance, \$7.4 billion for bilateral economic assistance, \$3.6 billion for military assistance, and \$1.1 billion for multilateral economic assistance.

Major funding initiatives in the bill include:

- * \$76.5 million for voluntary peacekeeping operations (equal to the 1999 level and \$53.5 million less than the president's request);

- * \$725 million for the Former States of the Soviet Union (\$307 million less than the president's request and \$76 million less than the FY 1999 level after excluding supplemental emergency appropriations);
- * \$680 million for the Child Survival and Disease Programs Fund (\$125 million more than the president's request and \$30 million more than the 1999 level);
- * \$385 million for family planning activities, an amount equal to last year's level and \$15 million less than the president's request. The bill prohibits U.S. population assistance funding for foreign organizations that perform abortions, violate the abortion laws of foreign countries, or engage in lobbying activities to change the abortion laws of foreign countries (the president, however, may waive the prohibition on assistance to organizations that perform abortions);
- * \$25 million for the U.S. contribution to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). However, it specifically prohibits these funds from being used for programs in China or for any other programs that deal with abortions or coerced family planning practices. If the UNFPA does fund activities to China, the bill requires the U.S. to withhold an amount equal to whatever the organization spends on those activities;
- * \$735 million (\$20 million more than the president's request and \$40 million less than the FY 1999 level) in economic aid for Egypt. The bill also recommends a continued decrease of \$40 million annually over 10 years, which will result in a 50 percent reduction in economic aid toward Egypt. The bill does, however, fully fund the president's request of \$1.3 billion for military assistance, which is equal to the FY 1999 level;
- * \$19.6 million for the International Fund for Ireland, an amount equal to both last year's level and the president's request;
- * \$285 million (\$24 million more than last year's level after excluding supplemental emergency funding but \$10 million less than the president's request) for International Narcotics Control;
- * \$181.6 million (\$16.4 million less than in FY 1999 after excluding emergency supplemental funding but \$49.4 million less than the president's request) for nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, and demining activities;
- * \$240 million (equal to the FY 1999 level after excluding emergency supplemental funding but \$30 million less than the president's request) for the Peace Corps;
- * \$960 million in economic aid to Israel, \$120 million less than both the FY 1999 level and the president's request; however, the bill increases Israel's total military assistance by \$60 million over last year for a total of \$1.92 billion. The bill also recommends a reduction of \$120 million per year from economic assistance over the next 10 years, which will result in the eventual elimination of economic assistance to Israel; and
- * \$200 million, the same as the president's request, for economic assistance, and \$125 million (also equal to the president's request) for military assistance to Jordan.

The bill also (1) renews the one-year waiver of section 907 of the Freedom Support Act (*P.L. 102-511*), which bans all U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan; and (2) withholds 50 percent of assistance to the government of Russia unless it ends nuclear and ballistic missile cooperation with Iran;

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 2606 will result in outlays of \$4.8 billion for FY 2000, \$3 billion for FY 2001, \$2.8 billion for FY 2002, \$778 million for FY 2003, and \$1.1 billion for FY 2004. The Appropriations Committee reported the bill by voice vote on July 21, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: Yesterday, the House completed debate but did not vote on the following three amendments:

- * an amendment by **Mr. Paul** to prohibit funding in the bill from being used for population control or population planning programs, family planning activities, or abortion procedures. *Staff Contact: Mike Sullivan, x-2831*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Paul** to prohibit the Export-Import Bank, OPIC, or the Trade and Development Agency from entering into new obligations after the bill's enactment. *Staff Contact: Mike Sullivan, x-2831*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Tancredo** to prohibit funding for the United Nations Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program or the United Nations World Heritage Fund. *Staff Contact: Chuck Chotvacs, x5-7882*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #22, July 23, 1999.

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Motion to Go to Conference on H.R. 2587 (FY 2000 District of Columbia Appropriations Act)

Floor Situation: Mr. Istook or a designee is expected to offer a motion to go to conference on H.R. 2587 after it completes consideration of H.R. 2606. A motion to instruct may be made immediately after this request and before the chair appoints conferees. Instructions are considered the prerogative of the minority and are debatable for one hour.

Summary: The motion, if agreed to, will establish a House-Senate conference to resolve differences between H.R. 2587, which passed the House by a vote of 333-92 on July 29, 1999, and the Senate version (S. 1283), which passed by voice vote on July 1, 1999. Once agreed to, the motion permits the chair to appoint conferees. Details of a possible motion to instruct were unavailable at press time.

Views: The Republican leadership strongly supports the motion to go to conference and opposes any motion to instruct conferees that would weaken the position of House negotiators.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #22, July 23, 1999.

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H.R. 2031—Twenty-First Amendment Enforcement Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 2031 after it appoints conferees on H.R. 2587. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a modified open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. The rule makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text. It limits total debate on amendments to two hours. In addition, the rule accords priority members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 2031 amends the 1913 Webb-Kenyon Act to authorize the attorney general of any state or U.S. territory to seek enforcement—through a federal district court injunction—of a state law regulating the importation or transportation of intoxicating liquors. Under the bill, injunctive relief may be granted by the district court if the attorney general makes a “proper showing” that such a state law has been violated. The legislation is designed specifically to empower states to seek federal relief against entities that directly ship alcohol, especially over the Internet. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2031 will cost less than \$500,000 annually, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The bill was introduced by Mr. Scarborough *et al.* and was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote on July 20, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 2031:

Mr. Cox may offer an amendment to clarify that the bill does not (1) supercede the 1998 Internet Tax Freedom law (*P.L. 105-277*), which imposes a three-year moratorium on new, multiple, and discriminatory Internet taxes; (2) authorize any discriminatory treatment of out-of-state sellers; and (3) does not permit states to seek injunctions in federal court against interactive computer services or electronic communication services. **Staff Contact:** *Peter Uhlmann, x5-5611*

Mr. Goodlatte may offer an amendment to clarify that the bill (1) only extends the jurisdiction of federal courts to enforce state law that is valid under the 21st Amendment, and that it grants states no additional power; (2) does not supercede the 1998 Internet Tax Freedom law (*P.L. 105-277*), which imposes a three-year moratorium on new, multiple, and discriminatory Internet taxes; and (3) does not permit states to seek injunctions in federal court against interactive computer services or electronic communication services. **Contact:** *Ben Cline, x5-5431*

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment to make it illegal to deliver intoxicating liquor, via interstate commerce, in containers that do not clearly identify their contents. The amendment establishes a penalty of a \$1,000 fine for committing this offense. **Staff Contact:** *Dirck Hargraves, x5-3816*

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment to express the sense of Congress that states should require (1) sellers of intoxicating liquors, via interstate commerce, to deliver liquor in containers that are clearly marked to identify their contents; (2) non-Post Office carriers to obtain reasonable proof that the individual to whom containers of alcohol are addressed is at least 21-years old. *Staff Contact: Dirck Hargraves, x5-3816*

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment to prohibit non-Post Office carriers from knowingly delivering containers of alcohol to residences without obtaining the addressee's signature. The amendment establishes a penalty of a \$500 fine for committing this offense. *Staff Contact: Dirck Hargraves, x5-3816*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #23, July 30, 1999.

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H.J. Res. 58—Disapproving the Extension of Emigration Waiver Authority to Vietnam

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.J. Res. 58 after it completes consideration of H.R. 2031. Joint resolutions are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed. On July 30, the House agreed to a unanimous consent request to provide one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman of the Ways & Means Committee (in opposition) and a member in support of the resolution. The agreement waives all points of order against the resolution and its consideration.

Summary: H.J. Res. 58 disapproves President Clinton's decision to issue a waiver for Vietnam from the freedom of emigration requirements in the 1974 Trade Act based on his finding that the waiver would substantially promote achievement of the emigration objectives. The president's waiver makes Vietnam eligible for certain U.S. government financial incentives, such as loan credits and guarantees. Currently, Vietnam does not enjoy normal trade relations (NTR) with the U.S.; if it did, it would still be subject to the freedom of emigration requirements in the 1974 Trade Act, which would have to be met or waived by the President on an annual basis. On June 3, 1999, the president renewed Vietnam's waiver for an additional year. The president's action remains in effect unless Congress passes a joint resolution disapproving the extension within 60 days of the July 3 effective date. In 1998, the House defeated a similar resolution (H.J. Res. 120; *H.Rept. 105-653*) by a vote of 163-260.

The bill may affect direct spending by prohibiting credit-guaranteed sales of farm products to Vietnam. However, CBO estimates that such sales are likely to be insignificant. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Rohrabacher and was reported unfavorably (*i.e.*, disapproved, but still moved to the House floor) by the Ways & Means Committee by voice vote on July 1, 1999.

Views: Both the Republican leadership and the Clinton Administration oppose passage of H.J. Res. 58.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #23, July 30, 1999.

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H.R. 987—Workplace Preservation Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 987 after it completes consideration of H.J. Res. 58. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a modified open rule that provides one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Education & the Workforce Committee. The rule limits total debate on amendments to two hours. It accords priority to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 987 requires the Secretary of Labor to wait for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to complete and submit to Congress its study of the cause-and-effect relationship between repetitive tasks in the workplace and musculoskeletal disorders or repetitive stress injuries before issuing standards or guidelines on ergonomics. The NAS, which received an \$890,000 contract authorized by the FY 1999 Omnibus Appropriations Act (*P.L. 105-277*), began its study on ergonomic hazards early this year. However, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is proceeding with its plans to implement regulations on “ergonomics hazards”—i.e., injuries or disorders caused by repetitive use of the hands. On February 19, 1999, OSHA released its draft proposal for such a standard. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was introduced by Mr. Blunt *et al.* and was reported by the Education & the Workforce by a vote of 23-18 on June 23, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. The president strongly opposes the measure and has threatened to veto it.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments to H.R. 987.

Additional Information: See, *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #23, July 30, 1999.

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